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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/707,479	12/17/2003	Jean-Francois Fauh	FR920030017US1	1478
24241	7590	11/29/2007		
IBM MICROELECTRONICS			EXAMINER	
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW			DINH, TUAN T	
1000 RIVER STREET				
972 E			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ESSEX JUNCTION, VT 05452			2841	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			11/29/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)
10/707,479	FAUH ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit
Tuan T. Dinh	2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2007.
- 2a)  This action is FINAL.      2b)  This action is non-final.
- 3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4)  Claim(s) 1,2,10,12-16 and 21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6)  Claim(s) 1,2,10,12-16 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6)  Other: *Attaching paper of figure 3.*

**DETAILED ACTION**

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 09/11/07 has been entered.

**Note:** The term "capable of" performs a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. *In re Hutchison* 69 USPQ 138.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2, 10, and 12-16, 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hailey et al. (U.S. Patent 6,337,798).

As to claim 1, Hailey et al. discloses a printed circuit board (2) as shown in figure 3, comprising:

a first power plane layer (32) including first and second segments (labels as A and B, the segments formed on left and right sides of the power plane 32) and a third segment (C, a segment formed on a middle of the power plane 32) for connecting said first and second segments (see attaching paper attached with the Office action);

wherein electronic components (C1 and C2) are physically coupled only to said first and second segments (noted: the component C1 coupled to the first segment (on the left side) and the component C2 coupled to the second segment (on the right side));

and a first pair of conductive vias (46 and 48) each coupled to different points on said third segment, wherein a current transferred from said first segment to said second segment is determined by a potential difference and a resistance between said first pair of conductive vias (46 and 48).

As to claim 2, Hailey et al. discloses said first segment includes a plurality of conductive vias (45-48)

As to claim 10, Hailey et al. discloses said first segment comprises a rectangular geometry

As to claim 12, Hailey et al. said first segment is electrically characterized.

As to claims 13-15, Hailey et al. discloses said third segment being capable of (the term capable of being is defined as an intended use or adapted to) carrying current greater than about 20 amperes.

As to claim 16, Hailey et al. discloses the PCB capable of being having a lookup table is utilized for current derivation correlated with the difference in potential measured at said first pair of conductive vias.

As to claim 21, Hailey et al. discloses of said vias (45-48) comprising an end portion terminated on the third portion and another end portion terminated on a pad (the vias 45-48 having portions one on the third segment and another on the pad located on a surface of the board).

***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2, 10, 12-13, 15-16, and 21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

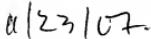
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan T. Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-1929. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gutierrez F. Diego can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Tuan Dinh  
November 23, 2007.

  
TUAN T. DINH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

  
11/23/07

Attaching paper of figure 3

U.S. Patent

Jan. 8, 2002

Sheet 4 of 4

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